

THIRTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLYAgenda item 22

WHA39.14

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TOBACCO OR HEALTH

The Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA31.56 and WHA33.35 on the health hazards of tobacco smoking and the WHO action programme on smoking and health;

Deeply concerned by the current pandemic of smoking and other forms of tobacco use, which results in the loss of the lives of at least one million human beings every year and in illness and suffering for many more;

Believing that the battle between health and tobacco must and can be won for the sake of human health;

Encouraged by the existence of total bans, restrictions or limitations on tobacco advertising in several countries;

1. AFFIRMS:

(1) that tobacco smoking and the use of tobacco in all its forms is incompatible with the attainment of health for all by the year 2000;

(2) that the presence of carcinogens and other toxic substances in tobacco smoke and other tobacco products is a known fact; and that the causal link between tobacco and a range of fatal and disabling diseases has been scientifically proven;

(3) that passive, enforced or involuntary smoking violates the right to health of non-smokers, who must be protected against this noxious form of environmental pollution;

2. CALLS for a global public health approach and action now to combat the tobacco pandemic;

3. DEPLORES all direct and indirect practices the aim of which is to promote the use of tobacco, as this product is addictive and dangerous even when used as promoted;

4. URGES those Member States which have not yet done so to implement smoking control strategies; these, as a minimum, should contain the following:

(1) measures to ensure that non-smokers receive effective protection, to which they are entitled, from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke, in enclosed public places, restaurants, transport, and places of work and entertainment;

(2) measures to promote abstinence from the use of tobacco so as to protect children and young people from becoming addicted;

(3) measures to ensure that a good example is set in all health-related premises and by all health personnel;

(4) measures leading to the progressive elimination of those socioeconomic, behavioural, and other incentives which maintain and promote the use of tobacco;

